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In re application of  
Sanjiv Bhatia

Application No. 09/858,262

Filed: May 15, 2001

For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR  
ONLINE INVESTING

DECISION ON REQUEST  
FOR WITHDRAWAL OF  
ATTORNEY

This is a decision on the request filed on December 29, 2004, under 37 CFR 1.36 and MPEP 402.06, requesting permission to withdraw as the attorney of record in the above-identified application.

The request is **NOT APPROVED**.

Under 37 CFR 1.36 an attorney may withdraw only upon application to and approval by the Commissioner. It should be noted that a withdrawal is effective when approved, not when filed. Besides giving due notice to his or her client and delivering to the client all papers and property to which the client is entitled as specified under 37 CFR 10.40, approval of such a request requires that the following conditions be met:

- A) Each attorney of record must sign the notice of withdrawal, or the notice must contain a clear indication of one attorney signing on behalf of another, because the Office does not recognize law firms;
- B) A proper reason for the withdrawal as enumerated in 37 CFR 10.40(b) or subsection (1)-(6) of 37 CFR 10.40(c) must be provided; and
- C) If withdrawal is requested in accordance with 37 CFR 10.40(c) above, there must be at least 30 days between approval of the withdrawal and the later of the expiration date of a time period for reply or the expiration date of the period which can be obtained by a petition and fee for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

The request to withdraw as attorney in the above-identified application is not approved because the request does not comply with condition B) above.

As to condition B) the reason for the request does not correspond to any of the reasons set forth in 37 CFR 10.40 (b) or (c). It cannot be determined from the reason presented if the client knowingly and freely consents to the termination of employment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randolph A. Reese", is written over a horizontal line.

Randolph A. Reese  
Special Programs Examiner  
Patent Technology Center 3600  
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RAR/dcg: 2/10/06